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SIERRA LEONE

Annual Report

OF THE

Department of Agriculture

For the Year 1941

1943

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ANNUAL REPORT—AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT, 1941.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year 1941.

SECTION I—GENERAL REVIEW OF CROPS INCLUDING EXPORTS.

2. The chief effect of the war on agriculture in Sierra Leone has been to divert a considerable number of men previously engaged on farm work to the Army, the building of military works and roads. Consequently the numbers left to cultivate their farms was proportionately reduced in the year under reference and further reductions occurred after the harvest. This reduction is a very serious matter in a country where the common method of shifting cultivation on upland farms normally only produces just enough to feed the farmer's family at a low level of subsistence. A very grave shortage of food therefore appeared to be likely to occur and active steps were taken by this department in conjunction with administrative officers to ensure that every effort was made by the people left on the land to produce rice to the utmost of their capacity.

3. The department concentrated on increasing the cultivation of swamp rice, since it is by this method that a man can produce the maximum amount of rice ; it not only encouraged by propaganda and advice, but gave concrete assistance in the form of loans to farmers for the clearing of the swamp in the Sembehun area, and, all over the Protectorate, seed rice was distributed for planting in swamp farms. Altogether some 6,435 bushels of rice were given out under our loan schemes enabling between 6,000 and 7,000 acres of swamp to be cultivated which might otherwise have remained uncultivated in 1941. This is a record distribution from our loan schemes and should be compared with the distribution of ninety bushels in 1933 when the first scheme started. The figure for 1940 was 4,064 bushels, so the increase in 1941 over 1940 was over 50 per cent. Of this total, 4,929 bushels were distributed under the Government Revolving Seed Scheme and 1,506 under the Native Administration Seed Scheme. The latter is an innovation and for the first time since their institution the Native Administrations have voted money for the development of agriculture. The number of farmers assisted under these schemes was over 2,500. The participation of Native Administrations in agricultural development is not without significance.

4. An equally important and perhaps even more effective action in increasing rice production was the vigorous campaign conducted by administrative officers among the Native Administrations throughout the Protectorate. This had the very excellent result that on the average each man left on the land planted more rice than normal. This stimulation of shifting cultivation could only be justified in war-time when a food shortage was the alternative and where the farmers had neither the knowledge nor the seed to cultivate swamps. But the biggest factor of all in increasing production was the weather. It was ideal for upland cultivation and since the incidence of rain plays such an important part in the brushing and planting of upland farms, to it must be given the chief credit for the fact that 1941 was a very good if not a record year for rice. The preparation of upland farms is so dependent on the incidence of rains that had the season proved an unpropitious one, there would have undoubtedly been a serious shortage of rice ; and should a bad season occur during our present state of development, while so many people are occupied with war work, there will undoubtedly be a serious shortage of rice. This danger will always be present until a much greater area of swamp rice is cultivated, since the preparation of swamp farms is very little affected by the incidence of rain and the total amount of rain is always more than sufficient.

5. The Sembehun Loan Scheme financed from the Protectorate Mining Benefits Fund becomes increasingly more popular. Up to date 368 farmers have received loans and it is estimated that 2,000 acres of mangrove have been felled of which nearly 1,000 acres are already producing rice. This figure excludes the farms cleared by unassisted enterprise in the Sembehun area.

6. The production of rice was further encouraged by a guaranteed minimum price of 6s. a bushel and in order to implement this promise the Government had to buy on a large scale in order to maintain the price. This action enabled Government to obtain a large quantity of rice which they are holding to supply the Army and stabilise the market during 1942. There is little doubt that the guaranteeing of a minimum price has a very encouraging effect on farmers who in past years have found that large crops are generally productive of low prices. It is also evident that Government will have to organise the purchase of rice during war-time since there is no organisation in existence to take note of increased wants and possibilities of export to assist the war effort along the West Coast of Africa.

7. The production of food crops other than rice during 1941 was also a record. Sweet potatoes, yams, cassava, bananas, plantains, cucumbers and other fruits flowed into Freetown in such quantities that the railway had to make special arrangements for taking delivery. But notwithstanding this increase, the production of local vegetables, especially of the types appreciated by Europeans, was not nearly enough to satisfy the recently and greatly increased demand ; and high prices for these resulted with not a little profiteering. In this connection, however, it must be understood that to grow certain European vegetables in a wet tropical climate is by no means an easy or remunerative matter, and high prices are justified for those vegetables which can only be cultivated with a considerable amount of care, and which appear to be the prey to every form of tropical insect pest or plant disease in existence.

8. The general policy of the department remained as in 1939 ; that is :—

(*a*) a vigorous campaign to increase production of foodstuffs especially rice and vegetables, and

(*b*) the organisation of the collection and distribution of locally produced foodstuffs, where necessary.

The department was still saddled with the responsibility of :—

(*a*) regulating the importation of essential foodstuffs not produced locally, and

(*b*) controlling the prices of all foodstuffs and certain forms of merchandise.

It is to be regretted that the work of controlling prices and the distribution of foodstuffs took up an ever-increasing amount of the time of the Director and his staff. Only two additional European (non-agricultural) officers were seconded to the department to assist, and from time to time it was necessary to call upon various officers of the department for assistance.

9. The outstanding feature of agricultural development during the year was the appointment of the Irrigation and Drainage Engineer to the staff. He was appointed to survey the possibilities of reclaiming and controlling the water in tidal and inland swamps. Mr. C. J. Rae, who arrived on the 14th of January, was able to devote his whole time to this project and was given the fullest assistance by the whole of the Agricultural staff. He was also able to obtain assistance from the Fleet Air Arm which enabled him to carry out aerial surveys of certain areas which were of great value. As a result of his work he has found some 550,000 acres of land suitable for drainage in the littoral areas and has specific schemes in course of preparation for a proportion of these areas. In the Scarcies for instance, detailed

plans for draining 1,750 acres of land at Rosino and Luti at a cost of approximately £5,000 were drawn up and approved in the Estimates for 1942. Plans were drawn up for the partial drainage (as a war measure) of some 6,000 acres in the Scarcies Delta ; this area will ultimately be incorporated in a complete scheme. In the Bum Kittam region a scheme for diverting the flood water from the Waanje River by cutting an escape across Turner's Peninsula is being worked out. This flood diversion scheme should prevent the annual deep flooding of some 150,000 to 200,000 acres of land much of which is suitable for rice cultivation. Aerial reconnaissances and treks by Mr. Rae have shown the existence of large tracts of inland swamps in which the water could be controlled and the areas made suitable for agriculture. It is estimated that over half-a-million acres of inland swamp would be benefited by some form of water control.

10. The control of water in swamps and valley bottoms for the benefit of farmers is new to Sierra Leone, and in fact to British West Africa, but it has been successful in other parts of the world, including Portuguese Guinea, and preliminary experiments have shown it to be successful in Sierra Leone. We must look upon this work, therefore, as opening new vistas of agricultural enterprise and inaugurating a new era of agricultural development.

11. The detailed policy of Government with regard to agriculture is always outlined at the beginning of annual reports and under each policy heading, work which has been initiated during the year under review, or appreciably increased, is always mentioned. The policy and the work initiated or expanded is as follows :—

A. The adequate provision of food for the people.

This is to be accomplished by :—

I. The Improvement and Spread of Swamp Rice Cultivation to such an extent that not only will the needs of the people be supplied in a bad year but there will be a Surplus for Export in ordinary years.

New work commenced in 1941.

(i) *Swamp Clearance Scheme.*—For the third successive year £500 was provided by the Protectorate Mining Benefits Fund and a further 765 acres of mangrove forest were cleared. Arrangements were made for the amount to be increased to £2,000 a year in future.

(ii) *Seed Farms.*—Plans were drawn up for the opening of small seed farms in 1942 in the tidal rice lands of the Moyamba and Bonthe Districts.

(iii) *Revolving Seed Scheme.*—It was possible to make use of increased supplies of seed in the department's seed scheme and some 4,929 bushels of improved varieties of swamp rice were given out to farmers.

(iv) *Irrigation and Drainage Scheme.*—The Irrigation and Drainage Engineer made surveys of considerable areas in Sierra Leone and he estimates an area of at least 550,000 acres of tidal swamp that can be reclaimed, while over 500,000 acres of inland swamp should be amenable to water control. Complete schemes have been drawn up for development in the following areas: Luti—1,050 acres, Rosino—690 acres, Tasso—25 acres, and provision for this work was made in the 1942 Estimates. Other work was in progress and surveys of certain areas was proceeding.

II. The Better Cultivation of Inland Swamps and Valleys for Rice during the Wet-Season and the Introduction of Crops other than Rice in Swamps during the Dry-Season.

Seed Distribution by Native Administrations.—Under a scheme run on lines similar to the department's revolving seed scheme, some 1,506 bushels of seed rice of improved swamp kinds, as well as quantities of yams, sweet potatoes and other crops were given out to farmers by a number of the Native Administrations. This is the first year in which the Native Administrations have voted money for agricultural development.

III. The Extension of Garden and Small-field Crops to serve as an Auxiliary Food Supply.

A vigorous campaign has been carried out to increase the production of vegetables.

IV. The Selection (or Introduction) and Distribution of Seeds and Plants Suitable for I, II and III.

V. Improvement of Poultry and Stock.

Provision was made for the appointment of a Veterinary Officer but although arrangements were ultimately made, no Veterinary Officer arrived during the year.

B. The Cultivation of Money Crops or Exploitation of Wild Trees for Export Purposes.

New work commenced in 1941.

(i) An agricultural sub-station in the 'high bush' area was opened at Kenema and a successful start was made. In conjunction with the work in this area a number of Native Administration seed farms have also been opened in that area.

C. The Arresting of the Degradation of the Forest Growth of Sierra Leone or at any rate increasing the Regeneration Period between Successive Brushings of the same Area.

No new work, but the increased diverting of farmers from the uplands to the swamps is of great importance.

D. The Improvement in the Preparation and Marketing of Produce.

Arrangements were made to instal 'planters' rice mills at a number of places in the Protectorate and four mills were ordered in 1941.

E. The Preservation of the Standard of Export Produce by Inspection.

The call on the staff for war work has decreased the time spent on inspection, but since the amount of produce exported has decreased, the staff has been able to cope with the situation.

F. Co-operation with the Eucation Department where possible in the Teaching of Agriculture.

The agricultural side of the scheme at Njala was enlarged to take agricultural apprentices for the first two, as well as the last two years of their training. This was necessitated by the closing of Mabang Agricultural Academy which was taken over for war purposes. Provision was also made for the present S. B. Thomas' Trust scholars from Mabang to finish their course at Njala.

G. Research.

On account of the exigencies of the war the Entomologist was diverted from his normal work to other more pressing work inside the department but he was available for use in his specialist capacity should the need arise. The Plant Pathologist was taken from the department and used by the Administration on work unconnected with agriculture. This diversion of a trained man, whose knowledge of botany and plant diseases is of the greatest assistance to the department, is gravely deplored; fortunately arrangements have recently been made for his release.

H. Conservation of Soil.

The teaching of anti-erosion methods has now become incorporated with the training of agricultural students at the Training College at Njala.

I. Nutrition.

Following on the proposals made in 1940, three farms were opened in the Kissi Chiefdom for the purpose of raising planting material and seeds (seed) of food crops for distribution amongst the farmers of that area where Trypanosomiasis and malnutrition are rife.

J. Extension of Work. All Extension Work and Propaganda must be based on Information gained from experiment or from experience by Agricultural Officers in Sierra Leone.

New work commenced in 1941.

(i) In conjunction with the work of the Agricultural Station at Makeni, a site for a sub-station was selected at Lunsar, a well populated mining centre to demonstrate suitable methods of valley cultivation. Though the farm did not open until 1942, two instructors worked in the area from September onwards.

(ii) *Scheme for Employment of Native Administration Instructors.*—A scheme has been worked out for the training of agricultural instructors for Native Administrations. These instructors will receive training from the Agricultural Department and will be paid by the Native Administrations in whose area they are working. Two instructors were appointed in the Makeni area in May.

(iii) In connection with the work of the Kenema Agricultural Station in the 'high bush' area, five Native Administrations voted sums for the inauguration of seed farms. Propaganda will be undertaken from these as centres.

GENERAL REVIEW OF CROPS INCLUDING EXPORTS.

12. The year was a satisfactory one from the upland farmer's point of view. Under favourable weather conditions good crops were raised in most districts. The war conditions naturally affected the farming situation on account of heavy recruitment for the military forces and of labour for military works, but although there has been a definite decrease in the area under cultivation, it is only in the Colony Peninsula that there has yet been any marked diminution. The Peninsula area is small compared with the Protectorate.

13. *Rice.*—It is extremely satisfactory to be able to report what is believed to be a record harvest in 1941, in spite of the calls on labour for war services. This was due to the excellent weather conditions for upland rice farms. There was a fear that prices would slump as a result of the good harvest but Government stepped in and implemented its guarantee of 6s. a bushel by buying all rice offering.

14. In addition to the big production from a somewhat smaller area of upland farms, swamp farms in both the tidal and inland areas showed an increase in area and good crops were obtained, with the result that at the end of the year very large stocks of rice were held by farmers. The price guaranteed at the beginning of the season was 6*s.* a bushel for ordinary native-cleaned rice at stations on the railway, while the permitted retail price in Freetown was 8*s.* The permitted price was increased to 8*s.* 6*d.* a bushel in September, 1941 (to 9*s.* a bushel in January, 1942 and to 9*s.* 6*d.* a bushel in April, 1942). The price up-country rose in sympathy with this increase. At the same time a premium of 1*s.* a bushel was offered for any rice cleaned to a degree fit for immediate consumption.

15. In order to assure supplies the department started to buy up large stocks of rice at up-country prices based on the ruling Freetown prices, at convenient centres on the railway line and in all some 120,000 bushels were bought. *It was very evident from the success of this hurriedly improvised buying scheme that the normal marketing of rice in the Protectorate is in need of assistance and control by Government if the producer is to get a fair deal.*

16. Other food crops were produced in satisfactory amount. Large supplies for planting material were given out to farmers under revolving seed schemes (loans repayable in kind) or free as in the case of supplies to the farmers in the Kissi chiefdoms where there is strong evidence of under-nourishment coupled with a high incidence of human Trypanosomiasis.

17. *Export Crops.*—The prices of palm kernels and palm oil remained controlled under the British Government's buying scheme.

18. The following table shows the exports of the principal agricultural products during the year :—

EXPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN 1941.

Palm kernels	37,154 tons
Palm oil	87 ,,
Piassava	1,653 ,,
Ginger	1,753 ,,
Kola	865 ,,
Cocoa	595 ,,
Rice	40 ,,
Chillies	234½ ,,
Coffee	86 ,,

SECTION II—THE WORK OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

ORGANISATION AND STAFF.

19. The Director of Agriculture continued to direct the work of the food and merchandise control organisations and this absorbed a great part of his time imposing a heavy strain on a staff which never had sufficient numbers to cope with the ever increasing work brought about by war conditions and the necessity to maintain an all-out effort to increase locally-grown foodstuffs. He was assisted for varying periods by one officer of the department and a temporary officer; towards the end of the year a second (temporary administrative) officer was seconded for duty in his office. The department has grown considerably in the last few years and it has been necessary to delegate certain responsibilities to senior officers. Government has recognised this and the Senior Agricultural Officer who has been made responsible for the routine work of the department, was, by notice in the *Gazette*, given the title of Assistant Director of Agriculture.

20. Of the two vacancies created by the approval of additional staff one was filled in September; the other vacancy in the establishment was still unfilled at the end of the year.

21. *Training of Junior Staff.*—The first group of ten agricultural apprentices finished their course at Njala Training College in December. Eight passed successfully and were appointed Agricultural Instructors, Grade IB, at the beginning of 1942.

Food Production.

22. Increased food production to meet the special requirements created by the war situation was again the aim of the department, and all plans were prepared with this object in view.

23. It has been shown in previous reports how the most profitable line of approach is to make the greatest possible use of the uncultivated swamps of which vast areas exist. The most readily available for rice cultivation are the tidal mangrove lands of the Moyamba and Bonthe Districts, and here, although it has not yet been found possible to post a second Agricultural Officer, good progress has been made.

24. Food production in the mining areas should now receive an impetus from the agricultural station recently opened at Makeni. This will be followed by the opening of sub-stations at a number of places in the area as staff and funds permit and the area will be continuously toured by an officer giving advice and organising the distribution of seeds on a wide scale. Already one such sub-station has been selected at Lunsar near the iron-mining operations.

25. An area that has received specialised treatment is the Kissi country where an anti-Trypanosmiasis campaign is being conducted and where it has been shown there exists an acute shortage of suitable food crops. An agricultural station to serve the eastern part of Sierra Leone has been opened at Kenema and three seed farms have already been opened in the chiefdoms most immediately concerned.

26. Native Administrations have been encouraged to control their own seed schemes and seed farms have accordingly been opened or planned to start early in 1942, in a number of Native Administrations in the areas served by the Kenema, Makeni and Sembehun agricultural stations. This work will be facilitated by a scheme whereby Native Administrations will employ their own agricultural instructors. Young men for these posts will be selected by Agricultural Officers and will be given a certain amount of training by them; promising instructors will also be selected for a course of training at the Njala Training College.

NJALA AGRICULTURAL STATION.

27. A series of soil fertility experiments were concluded and these showed quite plainly that pigeon pea could not be used as a suitable crop to recover the fertility of land after a crop of rice. Other experimental work on upland crops included manurial and variety trials with yams which were stil lin progress at the end of the year. Recently introduced varieties of ginger were multiplied for future use.

28. Oil-palms, citrus, coffee and cinnamon received attention as in past years.

29. An inland swamp adjacent to the station was taken over, simple water control measures introduced, and a satisfactory crop of rice obtained from an area which under natural conditions, was too deeply flooded for cultivation.

30. The keeping of stock became a more prominent feature of the station's activities. Twenty-four head of cattle were maintained and were used for milk production and draught purposes. During the year a Large Black Boar and two Large Black x Middle White Gilts were imported from the Gold Coast. The progeny

of these will be compared with that of our Berkshire x local black pigs, which are extremely promising. Fifty-two head of sheep were maintained. The health of the Rhode Island Red poultry showed an improvement on previous years. About 500 chicks were hatched.

ROKUPR AGRICULTURAL STATION.

31. New introductions of rice varieties included twenty-two strains from Peru. In addition eighty-five varieties were grown for the maintenance of seed. Many of these varieties can now be cut out as after full trial they have proved useless. Experimental work included pure line selection, cultivation and spacing trials in the field and manurial trials in the nurseries. It was a very good season for rice in the Scarcies area. *Piricularia oryzæ* was again troublesome in the nurseries.

32. *Seed Distribution.*—2,812 bushels of seed rice were given out on loan to farmers and 410 bushels were bought on behalf of the Native Administrations for distribution. Ro.1, the first pure line selection put into general circulation from this station, remains a firm favourite. Five co-operative marketing societies were in operation and marketed 5,000 bushels of rice.

SEMBEHUN AGRICULTURAL STATION.

33. The area under swamp rice was increased to fifteen acres. Good yields of up to 2,000 pounds of paddy per acre were obtained. *Piricularia* was severe in rice nurseries on the farm and in the district generally. 544 farmers received seed rice on loan, 132 farmers received yams on loan and 171 farmers received grants to assist with mangrove felling, and it is estimated that they felled 1765 acres. Native Administrations have voted money in 1942, for chiefdom pure seed farms, chiefdom rice stores, and Native Administration seed rice schemes.

MAKENI AGRICULTURAL STATION.

34. Twenty-seven acres were leased including seven acres of swamp. It is intended to demonstrate continuous valley cultivation by controlling the water and growing rice, potatoes, etc. in the valley bottom, bananas, plantains, etc. along the swamp margin and plantation crops, citrus fruit and other tree crops on the surrounding uplands. Satisfactory rice and potato crops were grown in the valley bottom and a start was made with the planting of permanent crops. A beginning was made with a scheme to drain the valley. Sub-stations at Lunsar and Batkanu were maintained. Supervision was also given to five chiefdom nurseries, the expenses of which were borne by Native Administrations.

NEWTON AGRICULTURAL STATION.

35. The normal routine and approved lines of development at this station were seriously affected by war-time conditions. On the farm, permanent crops, cinnamon, cashew and avocado pear were expanded. An adjacent valley was canalised and market-gardening with the aid of irrigation successfully demonstrated. Much of the Agricultural Officer's time was taken up with the supervision of vegetable cultivation to meet army demands. To meet the same demand livestock were increased. Pigs were a profitable line and the demand far exceeds the supply.

KENEMA AGRICULTURAL STATION.

36. This station was opened early in the year with the aim of fostering cacao in the high bush area and rice cultivation in the swamps. Approximately thirty acres was leased as a site for the farm. Rice gave good yields and a small area of cacao was planted up. Four demonstration rice farms were also started with funds provided by Native Administrations. In response to a special request for assistance in the Kissi Chiefdom, three farms were established to serve as demonstration and seed centres.

TEKO STOCK FARM.

37. The reserve hard, mentioned in 1940 report, was disposed of to the Military during the year and efforts were then made to build up a breeding herd. At the end of the year this consisted of forty-seven head of cattle. Milk found a ready sale. Six acres of *Pennisetum purpureum* were established, four acres of *Pueraria* and other crops such as maize, millet, cassava, groundnuts and potatoes were grown to provide food during the dry season. Ensilage was also made and was most useful in maintaining the condition of the stock. Sheep, goats, Rhode Island Red poultry and ducks were also maintained.

IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE.

38. This branch of the Agricultural Department began its activities with the arrival in January of the Irrigation and Drainage Engineer. In the report on the department for 1940 it was stated that a free grant of £13,285 had been obtained from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund to be spent over a period of four years for the purpose of developing the vast areas of highly fertile swamp lands with which the country abounds and which, for a variety of reasons, are at present very largely untouched by the farmer.

39. The report of the Irrigation and Drainage Engineer records considerable progress. All the office and field equipment had to be ordered out from the United Kingdom after his arrival and though much of this had not arrived at the close of the year, due to war-time conditions, it was possible to carry out a good deal of preliminary reconnaissance and detailed surveys of a number of areas in the Scarcies Delta. The work of the Irrigation Engineer was facilitated as a result of agricultural surveys (including maps carefully prepared on prints of topographical surveys) of areas embracing almost the entire littoral of the country. Apart from this, there were no data of any description. The Irrigation Engineer was able to carry out two useful aerial reconnaissance flights.

40. The year's work has shown that there are some 550,000 to 600,000 acres of swamps of various types in the littoral tract, and, while the reconnaissance of the upland swamps has so far been somewhat cursory, it is certain that at least an equally large area is covered by these.

41. A number of small surveys were carried out in the vicinity of Freetown, partly in collaboration with the Medical Au horities as anti-malaria measures, and partly for the improvement of land for growing vegetables for which there is a greatly increased demand as a result of the war. These included the swamps in Leicester Valley and on Tasso Island, where a small drainage project was carried out.

42. By the end of the year, two drainage projects which had been sanctioned in the Scarcies Delta merely awaited the arrival of staff to be started. Besides these, the following projects were under preparation or ready for execution:—

(1) Drainage of Heddle Swamp, Bonthe.
(2) Rochendata Drainage Project, near Marampa Mines.
(3) Tasso Island Drainage Project.
(4) Moyamba Drainage Project.
(5) Rotifunk Drainage and Irrigation Scheme.
(6) Leicester Valley Irrigation Scheme.
(7) Waanje Flood Diversion Project.

Of these, the Waanje Flood Diversion Project is of major proportions.

43. The projects named in the foregoing paragraph demand an expenditure in 1942 of an amount greatly in excess of that provided by the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund, and the greater part of this is at present found from local resources.

RICE MILL.

44. The Mill had a busy year. 103,230 bushels of paddy and native cleaned rice were received for milling. Of this 86,242 bushels were cleaned up to the end of the year, an increase of 23,631 bushels on the previous year's working. A profit of £1,598 19*s.* 5*d.* was made on the year's working while expenditure included a charge of £1,200 for erection of a new store which would otherwise have been shown as profit. In spite of working double shifts, the mill could not cope with orders during the busy season. A larger mill is required.

PRODUCE INSPECTION.

45. The Inspector of Plants and Produce was seconded for special duties with the Army but inspection continued along the usual lines. Prosecutions for faulty produce were only about half the number for the previous year and this seems to indicate better preparation.

46. Owing to the combined effect of low prices and lack of shipping space the export of produce dropped very considerably.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

47. In spite of absence through illness and leave of the Principal of the Njala Training College, for considerable periods a satisfactory year was concluded. Thirteen education students and twenty agricultural apprentices were in training. Three forest guards also took a short course.

48. New dormitories and an administration block were built.

49. Training in the practical side of agriculture took an even more important place in the curriculum than in previous years. Tours of inspections to agricultural stations were also arranged.

SECTION III—LEGISLATION.

50. Special legislation was passed to provide against the adulteration of Prime Sherbro piassava with the lower quality, Sulima fibre.

51. *Acknowledgments.*—Finally, I wish to draw your attention to the hard work and long hours so unselfishly put in by all members of the staff, European and African alike, whether in the field or in the office. More especially do I wish to thank those officers who have been so unsparing in their efforts to develop the swamp areas and have uncomplainingly endured life in these dank and depressing areas in order to increase the food supply of the community. Without their help the food position might have been very serious.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your obedient servant,

F. J. MARTIN,
Director of Agriculture.